



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANOTHER DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS ***Dead Crow Found in Serra Mesa***

County Vector Control officials confirmed a dead crow found in Serra Mesa tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the second bird to test positive for the virus this year.

"Since mosquitoes transmit West Nile virus, it's important that we eliminate mosquito-breeding areas, especially since the weather is warming up and we've had some rain recently," said Gary Erbeck, director of the Department of Environmental Health. "To prevent mosquito breeding, the County is using a helicopter to apply larvicide to 39 key breeding sites every month. In addition, vector control technicians are treating more than 1,000 key breeding sites from the ground."

With the recent rain and expected warmer weather, County Vector Control wants to remind people to check their yards for standing water because it can be the perfect place for mosquitoes to breed. Residents should dump or remove anything that can hold water, such as children's toys, old spare tires and wheelbarrows.

The County's West Nile virus Web site, www.SDFightTheBite.com, has a mosquito prevention checklist that includes the most common back yard mosquito-breeding sources. Larger water sources such as horse troughs, decorative fountains, ponds and inoperable swimming pools can be stocked with mosquito-eating fish to control larvae before they hatch into biting adults that can carry disease. These fish are free and available at 14 locations around the county. Check the County's West Nile virus Web site for distribution locations.

To date, there have been no human or horse cases of WNV reported this year in California.

Last year in San Diego County, there were no locally-acquired human cases of WNV. However, 162 birds tested positive for the virus last year, an all-time high in San Diego County.

For more information on West Nile virus, or to report mosquito-breeding sites or dead birds, call Vector Control at (888) 551-INFO (4636).

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